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UNCLAS GUATEMALA 000655

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: GOG REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE ON ALLEGED RACIAL
TARGETING OF GUATEMALANS IN ATLANTA

[1](#)1. This is an action request for the Department--See Para 4.

[1](#)2. During a March 9 meeting with Human Rights Officer, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Marta Altolaquirre expressed concern regarding the possible racial motive in a recent attack against two Guatemalans in Atlanta. The two men, Carlos Perez, 22, and Domingo Lopez, 54, were approached by an unidentified man in a car, who offered them work. After the men entered the vehicle, they were driven to an isolated area, severely beaten and robbed. The men were taken to a local emergency room where they were interviewed by the State Police.

[1](#)3. According to Altolaquirre, the Guatemalan Consul in Atlanta told her that this incident followed a series of similar-pattern attacks on Latinos in the area and the victims seemed to be selected based on racial targeting. Since many Guatemalans are illegally resident in the US, she said, they are therefore less likely to report crimes and at higher risk for violence.

[1](#)4. ACTION REQUEST. To be responsive to GOG concerns, Embassy requests that the Department inquire about the facts in this case or information on similar crimes targeting Latins with Georgia law enforcement authorities and share the results with us and the Guatemalan Embassy.

HAMILTON